

June 5, 2009 - Murtha: Local Trails Receive National Recognition

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha (PA-12) announced today that the U.S. Department of Interior has designated four local trails in Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties as newly recognized National Recreation Trails (NRT) within the U.S. National Trails System.

Each of these trails will receive a certificate of designation, a letter of congratulations from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, and NRT trail markers. These newly designated trails, 22 trails in 13 states, join a network of more than 1,050 previously designated trails that total more than 12,500 miles.

National Recreation Trails were first designated in 1971 to recognize existing trails and trail systems that connect people to local resources and improve their quality of life. This announcement coincides with the 17th annual celebration of National Trails Day tomorrow, June 6, 2009. The theme for this year, "Take In the Outdoors," encourages people of all ages to get outside and use trails for exercise and exploration.

"Through government, non-profit, and private sector partnerships, we have built new trails and converted former railroad lines into trail networks," said Murtha. "This national recognition of our efforts is very gratifying and puts these local trails on the national map."

"From coast to coast, the National Trails System helps connect American families with the wonders of the outdoors," said Secretary Salazar. "These new National Recreation Trails, built through partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, will create new opportunities for fitness and stewardship, while creating a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren."

For 2009, the U.S. Department of Interior has designated the following four local trails as National Recreation Trails:

Pittsburgh to Harrisburg
Main Line Canal
Greenway – 6 to 10 Trail (Cambria County)

This 7.75-mile trail follows the remnants of the Allegheny Portage Railroad, an engineering landmark that lifted canal boats over the Allegheny Mountains in the mid-1800's.

Pittsburgh to Harrisburg
Main Line Canal
Greenway – Path of the Flood Trail (Cambria County)

This 6.5 mile trail follows the path of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889. For part of its length, the trail joins the 2.5-mile Staple Bend Tunnel Trail which follows the remnants of the Allegheny Portage Railroad to the first railroad tunnel built in the U.S., the 901-foot long Staple Bend Tunnel.

<http://www.pecpa.org/node/702>

Pittsburgh to Harrisburg
Main Line Canal
Greenway – Roaring Run Trail (Armstrong County)

Following the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal along the Kiskiminetas River, this 4-mile trail is rich in historic transportation themes and recreational opportunities.

<http://www.roaringrun.org/Site/Home.html>

Pittsburgh to Harrisburg
Main Line Canal
Greenway – West Penn Trail (Indiana and Westmoreland Counties)

The 12-mile West Penn Trail offers many scenic, natural and historic assets, including 100-year old stone arch railroad bridges and parts of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. Forty interpretive signs enrich this trail experience.

<http://www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org/recreation/recreation.html>

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